

**Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**



Dear Friends in Christ,

**O Lord God, there is no God like You, in heaven above or on earth beneath,  
keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk  
before You with all their heart.'**  
(1 Kings 8: 23)

Some of you will have already heard the announcement from Wolvesey on Friday morning of the acceptance by Her Majesty the Queen of The Rt. Revd Canon Tim Dakin's retirement from his role as Bishop of Winchester. This change will become effective in February of next year. Meanwhile, we are told that an, as yet unnamed, recently retired diocesan bishop will be overseeing the transition of responsibilities; ensuring that our parishes are supported through these difficult times.

Bishop Tim's letter and video are available to read and watch below.

Please pray for Tim and Sally, for their children and their families as they prepare to leave the Diocese of Winchester, that God's healing love is upon them and with all those Tim has served as Bishop of Winchester during these past 10 years. Please also pray for Bishop David and Bishop Debbie and all diocesan staff as they lead our diocese forward in the light and love of Christ.



**Solomon before the Ark of the Covenant by Blaise Nicolas Le Sueur**

The quote from 1 Kings I have chosen for the beginning of this letter is the opening of King Solomon's prayer of dedication as the Ark of the Covenant is brought into the new Temple Solomon had built to house it in Jerusalem. The beginning of the first Book of Kings speaks into the power struggle which ensued as Solomon became heir to King David's throne. It chronicles the passing of an old era into the beginning of a new one.

In order to build the temple and for his reign to be effective, Solomon had to be organised, and though he had significant personal flaws which eventually led to his demise, he initially listened to God and in seeking God's wisdom, was used by Him to bring the people of Israel together both physically and spiritually. In our diocese today, we need to remember Solomon's wisdom in listening to God and in focussing our lives on God's holy word through Jesus and in following the Spirit of all truth. Wisdom, power and achievement can never come from human greatness, but only through humility before God. Our prayers must now be that we come together as a diocese; that we get back on track, seeking the fruits of God's wisdom in our lives – patience, peace, security and spiritual prosperity for all.

Be assured of my continuing love and prayers for all the people of this Benefice, for our worshipping community and those beyond, and for my commitment to see us flourish and grow in Jesus' holy name.

**'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes for them.'**

(Romans 8: 38-39)

Yours, in the unfailing love of Christ,

**Jax**

**Revd Jax Machin**, Rector, The Downs Benefice

**Collect Prayer for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:  
    graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,  
    and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
    through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
    who is alive and reigns with you,  
    in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
    one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.



Bishop Tim's video message to the Diocese can be viewed [here](#). The text of the message is below.

Dear Friends

I have now received confirmation that Her Majesty the Queen has accepted my retirement as Bishop of Winchester. I wanted you all to hear my decision as directly as possible – and doing it this way rather speaks to our times. Some formalities and details need to be finalized but I'll be leaving the Diocese in early February and handing over my responsibilities to others in the meantime. Please pray for all involved in this transition process.

Mahatma Gandhi said that "unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking." I have always been clear that, as your Bishop, I should be there to build and foster togetherness across our Diocese, focused upon our life together in Christ, and upon our joint mission to serve Christ in our communities and to sustain Christian witness in daily life. Sadly, it seems it is no longer possible for me to fulfil this role.

The last eighteen months have brought enormous pressures to bear on us all, individually, as a country, within our families and communities, and as a Diocese. The painfully difficult financial decisions made over the last year have caused real anguish. In trying to secure a sustainable future for the growth of the Diocese, it is clear that I've not done enough to acknowledge what we have lost in this process. To those I've hurt or let down, I am sorry.

I realise that the steps taken to stabilize the finances continue to cause upset. Bishop's Council has received full reports in recent weeks from the Diocesan auditors and legal advisers, explaining and corroborating the decisions made by the Diocesan Board of Finance. None of this makes those decisions any easier to take. Nevertheless, I hope there is some comfort in the clarity now provided, and that faith can be restored in the relevant Diocesan staff and functions as the pastoral reorganisations proceed. Please continue to pray for all those involved. Pray too for all serving in the parishes and various projects: that the church and its witness may grow in the Diocese.

I could not have come to my decision, or indeed found a way through this recent period, without the love and support of Sally, my children and close friends. While

I have not seen much of what has been said about me, my family and friends have seen more, and I have seen the effect it has had on them. They are the people who know me best, of course – and I've drawn upon their love and their view of me during these difficult times.

It has been a privilege to serve a Diocese that has Companion links across the world. I've been reminded of previous ministry experience: of the need to live on other people's terms to see the world they see and to know the Christ they follow. I hope these links will continue to grow in strength and in significance. It's also been a great joy to be part of a Diocese where education is taken seriously at all levels, not least, Further & Higher Education. All of us are called to pray and witness in such a way that the coming generations will find fullness of life in Christ. I will remain proud of what has been achieved across the Diocese over the past 10 years. For there to have been a record number of ordinands at the Cathedral recently is a wonderful achievement for those involved in the School of Mission and in the parishes. I believe each and every one of our new clergy – and the many lay people who've received the Bishop's Commission for Mission – will have a valuable role to play in the next stage of the Diocese as it witnesses to Christ's mission in this region, in the life of the nation and across the Anglican Communion. The new national strategy for the Church of England offers an inspirational trajectory for such future developments.

As for me and Sally, we are planning a move to Plymouth, and we're looking forward to making new friends, as well as to visits from old friends and from our growing family. Thank you for all we have shared. We will miss you. God bless you.

+Timothy Winton



**The Right Reverend Canon Tim Dakin**

### **1 Kings 8:22-30 - Solomon's Prayer of Dedication**

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, and he prayed:

'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven above or on the earth below. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father. You made that promise with your own mouth, and with your own hands you have fulfilled it today. And now, O Lord, God of Israel, carry out the additional promise you made to your servant David, my father. For you said to him, "If your descendants guard their behaviour and faithfully follow me as you have done, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel." Now, O God of Israel, fulfil this promise to your servant David, my father.

But will God really live on earth? Why, even the highest heavens cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built! Nevertheless, listen to my prayer and my plea, O Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making to you today. May you watch over this Temple night and day, this place where you have said, "My name will be there." May you always hear the prayers I make toward this place. May you hear the humble and earnest requests from me and your people Israel when we pray toward this place. Yes, hear us from heaven where you live, and when you hear, forgive.'

### **Mark 6: 30-34; 53-56 – Teaching the Crowds and Healing the Sick**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

## Service Schedule

*This schedule is correct at this time but may be subject to future alterations – please check on our website for the most up-to-date information.*

All services start at 10am, with the exception of Café Church, which starts at 4pm.

Until we hear further from the Government and the Church of England, please could you continue to book to attend services by contacting the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 or [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk)

Please would you also continue to wear masks until we are advised otherwise.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> July				Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Morning Prayer		Holy Communion		
1 <sup>st</sup> August		Morning Prayer	Café Church		Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup> August	Morning Prayer			Matins	
15 <sup>th</sup> August		Holy Communion	Morning Prayer		
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Holy Communion			Morning Prayer	
29 <sup>th</sup> August			Holy Communion		Morning Prayer
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Harvest Festival		Café Church		Morning Prayer
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Morning Prayer		Holy Communion	
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Wed)			Holy Communion		
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion		Morning Prayer	Pet Service	
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Harvest Service			Harvest Festival